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FORCE WORKS®

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FINAL ISSUE

WILD MAN KEY GARCIA

PAIN THRESHOLD

FORCE WORKS H.Q., VENTURA, CALIFORNIA.
THE LONG SILENCE IS BROKEN...
WANDA...
...HOW DO YOU FEEL / REGISTER / RESPOND?
THE HEART-BREAKIN' FINALE...
DAN ABNETT & ANDY LANNING STORY
ANDREW WILDMAN PENCILS
REY GARCIA INKS
MORELLI LETTERS ROSAS COLORS
MIKE MARTS ASS'T ED.
NEL YOMTOV EDITOR
BOB HARRAS CHIEFTAIN

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FRAGILE. UNSTEADY ON MY FEET. THE... *INTRUDER* USED SOME KIND OF ELECTRO STUNNER ON ME.

YOU SHOULD REST...

I DON'T HAVE *TIME* TO WORRY ABOUT MY HEALTH.

SCARLET WITCH TO TEAM MEMBERS! *EMERGENCY RESPONSE!*

WANDA! THIS IS SPIDER-WOMAN! I'M IN THE TECH-LAB WITH FISHER--

--AND WE GOT A REALLY MAJOR PROBLEM DOWN HERE!

I CAN BARELY MAKE YOU OUT, JULIA! WHAT'S THAT ROARING SOUND?!

IT'S KANG'S TIME-GATE... THE ONE FISHER AND I WERE EXAMINING! SOMEHOW, IT'S ACTI-VATED, AND--

--LOOK, FISHER CAN EXPLAIN THIS BETTER THAN ME! I'LL PUT HIM ON!

WANDA! THE T-GATE'S MANIFESTING A CHRONIC *INSTABILITY*, AS IF THE REALITY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE THRESHOLD IS *DECAYING*!

MY GUESS IS THAT THE ALTERNATE TIME STREAM IS *DYING*--AND UNLESS WE CLOSE THE GATE, THE *IMPLOSION* COULD DO SERIOUS *HARM* TO OUR OWN CONTINUUM!

THERE'S MORE! WHEN THE GATE TRIGGERED, TWO INTRUDERS CAME THROUGH, AND--

WE'RE ALREADY ONTO *THAT* PROBLEM, FISHER! DO WHAT YOU CAN ABOUT THE GATE AND TELL SPI TO FIND AGENT AND JOIN US IN ROUNDING UP OUR "*GUESTS*".

SHE SAID--

GOT IT, LOUD AND CLEAR.

GOOD LUCK, FISHER!

AM I GONNA *NEED* IT!

AGENT? *Oh.*

YOU LOOK WORSE THAN I FEEL.

TWO FLOORS UP...

KKRNNCHH

THE TWO "GUESTS" HELP CYBERMANCER TO ENTER THE RESEARCH SUITE.

WELL?

THERE'S NO SIGN OF IT, ULTRON! IT'S GONE, AND SO IS THAT PUNY ENDO!

SO IT'S GONE? SO WHAT?

YOU CLOWN! THAT SUIT IS MY LIFE! WITHOUT IT, WE'RE NOT GOING TO SURVIVE A DAY IN THIS PRIMITIVE TIME LINE!

OKAY, OKAY! DON'T GET YOUR PANTIES IN A BUNCH!

...OR MAYBE YOU'VE *FORGOTTEN* THAT WE'RE REFUGEES FROM A *DYING* UNIVERSE! OUR REALITY IS *COLLAPSING!* IT COULDN'T GET MUCH *WORSE!*

PAFF!

ENOUGH! FIGHTING EACH OTHER WON'T HELP!

CYBERMANCER'S BODY-SUIT MUST BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND IT! *COME ON!*

GREAT HEAVENS!

AH, YES... IT TAKES YOUR BREATH AWAY, DOESN'T IT?

THERE'S POLLUTION HERE, OF COURSE, BUT THE AIR IS ACTUALLY *BREATHABLE!* IT'S POSITIVELY *IDYLLIC!*

GREAT MAKER SAVE US...

...I'D FORGOTTEN WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SKY LOOKED LIKE AFTER THE UN-REMITTING ASH CLOUDS OF HOME!

AND TO THINK HOW FEW YEARS WE CAME BACK!

YOU SENTIMENTAL FOOL, LETTING YOUR EMOTIONS RUN AWAY WITH YOU.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, WILLIAMS? GUESS A MECHANOID LIKE YOU MUST'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO FEEL.

STOP SQUABBLING, YOU TWO!

WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

WE'RE NOT HERE FOR A FIGHT.

I OVERHEARD WHAT YOU SAID, AND I REMEMBER HOW COLD YOUR SKIN WAS. ARE YOU REALLY A MECHANOID, SIMON? AND IS ULTRON REALLY FLESH AND BLOOD!?

SPARE US THE QUESTIONS, SCARLET WITCH. MY COMPANIONS AND I WILL TEAR YOU TO PIECES UNLESS YOU FURNISH ME WITH MY SUIT AND A WAY OUT OF HERE IMMEDIATELY.

I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE ON THE RUN FROM A DYING TIME LINE.

WE COULD HELP YOU IF YOU'D LET US!

WOULD YOU REALLY?

DON'T BELIEVE HER!

SHE'S LYING!!

BE QUIET, SUE.

WOULD YOU, WANDA MAXIMOFF?

I'LL TRY. THE SIMON WILLIAMS I KNEW IS DEAD. I WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.

WHERE I COME FROM, WANDA IS DEAD ALSO. WE HAVE BOTH KNOWN PAIN.

DON'T TRUST HER, YOU IDIOT! DON'T FALL FOR HER LIES! KILL HER! KILL HER!!

I SAID SHUT UP!

THANKS TO YOU I'VE SPENT THE LAST DECADE OF MY LIFE WADING IN BLOOD-- KILLING AND MAIMING AT THE WHIM OF THAT MONSTER STARK!

WELL, IT'S OVER, CYBER-MANCER...

...I'LL NOT DO YOUR BIDDING AGAIN.

STARK AND ENDO BUILT THE FUTURE, YOU SEE. AFTER KANG DIED IN THE *GREAT WAR*, THEY FASHIONED A NEW WORLD ORDER FROM HIS BLUEPRINTS.

THE SKY WENT BLACK. THE WORLD BECAME AN ARTIFICIAL PLACE. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCES LIKE ULTRON WALKED IN FLESH BODIES GROWN IN VATS. MEN AND WOMEN LIKE ME AND THIS WOMAN HAD OUR IDENTITIES STRIPPED BY SURGERY.

SUZI TOLD ME YOU HAVE RECENTLY DEFEATED *YOUR* STARK, AND SENT KANG INTO RETREAT.

COUNT YOURSELVES *BLESSED.*

WE'LL HELP YOU MAKE A HOME *HERE*, SIMON. THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY.

INDEED...

AAAH EEEE

...I KNOW HOW IT IS TO BE AN ALIEN HERE... WITHOUT FRIENDS. FINDING A PLACE HERE IS NOT *IMP--*

WHAT THE--?

HOLY SPIT! SUZI!

MY ARM!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY ARM!?

IT'S HER! THE WITCH CAST A SPELL ON ME WHILE SHE KEPT US TALKING!!

TZZZKKT

TZZKFT

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

NOTHING! HOW COULD YOU THINK THAT? WE HAVE TO HELP HER!

IT'S EATING ME UP!

TZZZ

I TRUSTED YOU! AND YOU'RE KILLING HER WITH YOUR MAGIC!

YOU FOOL! THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS!

YOU HEARD HER-- BACK OFF!

FWAP

WHY YOU LITTLE--

HUH? WHERE'D HE GO?

TZZAKK

SUZI! CYBER-MANCER!

LET ME HELP YOU!

I COULD TRY AND--

NO! NOOO! GET AWAY FROM ME!!

SO HELP ME, WOMAN! IF THIS IS YOUR DOING--!

SSHH-FAM!

OOHH!

GAHH!

HEY, JOKERS! TAKE YOUR SEATS RING-SIDE! THAT LIL' TASTE OF PHOTON SHIELD MEANS THIS IS ROUND TWO!

YEAH--

--YOU HEARD THE MAN. SIDDOWN!

WH-KRAK

UGHKK!

AND, AS THE EARTH SAYING GOES-- STAY DOWN!

OH, DEAR LORD... SHE'S VANISH-ING!

helllpp... meeeeeee...

SUZI! NO!

VWOP

WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

SIMON, I--

WANDA! THE BEING CALLED ULTRON IS ALSO MANI-FESTING THE STRANGE ENERGY DECAY!

THIS'S GOTTA BE LINKED TO THE GATE, WANDA!

AGREED! CENTURY-- GET US DOWN TO TECHLAB --NOW!

AS YOU WISH!

STAND CLOSE BY ME. MAKE NO SUDDEN MOVES!

TZZZAAKK

THANK YOU, CENTURY.

FISHER?

OVER HERE, BOSS.

YOU GIVE ME THE EASY JOBS, DON'CHA?!

THE VISITORS ARE BEING CONSUMED BY AN ENERGY DISCHARGE! ONLY SIMON IS UNAFFECTED SO FAR! COULD THIS BE A BY-PRODUCT OF THE GATE?

WILLIAMS! HELP ME! HELP ME!

WE'RE TRYING, OLD FRIEND!

DEFINETLY, WANDA!

THE TIME LINE ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE GATE IS IN THE FINAL STAGES OF COLLAPSE! MATTER FROM THAT UNIVERSE WILL BE CAUGHT IN THE ENTROPIC FIELD AND DEGRADE AT THE SAME RATE!

THE ONLY WAY TO STOP IT IS TO CLOSE THE GATE-- AND RIGHT NOW IT'S JAMMED OPEN!

IT'S EATING ME! SIMON--! HELP MEEEE EEARRGH!!

ULTRON! NO!!

HE'S GONE! HE'S GONE, TOO! AND THAT MEANS--

--I'M NEXT!!

FISHER-- FOR GOD'S SAKE! WE HAVE TO--

I KNOW, WANDA--! BUT I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO CLOSE THE GATE!

SIMON! I'M SORRY!

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, WANDA. THERE'S JUST NOTHING YOU OR YOUR PEOPLE CAN DO!

SACRED FETH!

FAREWELL!

HE JUST SACRIFICED HIS LIFE-- TO CLOSE THE GATE!

AND IT ALMOST WORKED! THE IM-PLOSION'S DELAYED, BUT THE GATE'S STILL NOT SHUT DOWN!

KZZZATA

KBOM

LEAVE THAT TO ME.

SUZI? WHERE'D YOU SPRING FROM, GIRL?

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN.

THIS CYBER-MANCER KIT CAME FROM THE OTHER TIME LINE, RIGHT? MY EVIL COUNTER-PART TOLD ME HOW DANGEROUS AND POWER-FUL IT WAS--

--WELL, NOW I'VE MASTERED ENOUGH SKILL WITH THE CONTROL GAUNTLET TO MANIPULATE IT BY REMOTE, I FIGURE--

--IT CAN GO RIGHT BACK WHERE IT CAME FROM!!

AFTERWARDS...

SUZI'S ACTIONS CERTAINLY SAVED THE HOUR...

...AND THE GATE HAS STAYED *FUSED SHUT* SINCE THEN, RIGHT, FISHER?

I'VE BEEN WATCHING IT; SUZI SEALED IT *TIGHT.*

LOOK, SINCE WE'RE ALL HERE, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO *ASK*...

...WHAT HAPPENS *NOW*? WE'VE BARELY HAD TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT SINCE STARK DIED, BUT ARE WE GOING TO GO *ON* WITH THE *TEAM*?

ARE YOU KIDDING? TONY WOULDA *WANTED* US TO!

FW

I'M SURE HE WOULD, BUT WE ALL NEED A BREAK FIRST.

I KNOW I NEED SOME DOWNTIME TO CLEAR MY HEAD. THEN I'LL THINK ABOUT WHETHER TO CONTINUE OR NOT.

Oh.

I AGREE WITH JULES.

I WANT TO HEAD EAST FOR A WHILE WITH HAWKEYE TO VISIT THE NEW TONY STARK.

FITTING INTO THIS NEW WORLD CAN'T BE EASY FOR HIM.

COULD I TAG ALONG? I HEARD SLADE WAS BEING CARED FOR IN THE AVENGERS INFIRMARY. I'D LIKE TO VISIT HIM.

THERE ARE THINGS HE AND I SHOULD TALK ABOUT.

A VACATION SURE SUITS ME. I WANT TO SPEND A MONTH WET-TESTING MY NEW BOARD.

I HAVE NOT CONSIDERED MY FUTURE. BUT TO TRAVEL, LEARN MORE ABOUT MY ADOPTED HOME APPEALS TO ME.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!

YOU'RE ALL WALKING OUT ON THE WORKS?!?

HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING. AGENT SAID HE'D DRIVE ME TO THE AIR-PORT.

SUZI? YOUR FLIGHT'S SO SOON?

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, AND STAY IN TOUCH.

WE'LL MISS YOU.

THANKS, WANDA. IT'S BEEN QUITE A TRIP.

Uh-huh. TAKING SOME HOMEWORK AWAY WITH YOU, TOO? *Huh?*

REVERSE-ENGINEERING THAT GAUNTLET IS MY NEXT BIG PROJECT! BUT... I PROMISE YOU... *NO MORE CYBER-MANCER!*

WHAT ABOUT *YOU* GUYS? WHAT'RE *YOU* GOING TO DO?

WE WERE JUST *DISCUSSING* THAT.

AT THE VERY LEAST, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE TAKING A SABBATICAL, BUT--

ATTENTION!

FORGIVE THE INTRUSION!

WHAT IS IT, PLATO?

THE CHAOS COMPUTER IS BACK ON-LINE NOW AND DETECTING A MAGNITUDE TWO ALERT IN WASHINGTON STATE.

WILL YOU BE DEALING WITH IT, OR SHALL I PASS THE DATA ON TO THE *AVENGERS*?

Y'KNOW, WITCH-- TECHNICALLY WE'RE *STILL* ON DUTY...

Whooaa!!

AGREED, JACK--WE CAN WORRY ABOUT THE *FUTURE* LATER...

LET'S GO, FORCE WORKS!

I HEARD *THAT!*

WELL, UH--

YOU'LL BE NEEDING A CAB, THEN?

YEAH, I GUESS!

WILL THEY BE OKAY, PLATO?

WHETHER THEY STAY AS A TEAM OR GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS, THEY'LL BE *BETTER* THAN OKAY, MISS ENDO.

TRUST ME ON THAT.

THE END.

KLICK.